



United States Mission to the OSCE

Session 2: Transnational Threats and Challenges

As delivered by Carol Fuller, Deputy Chief of Mission
OSCE Review Conference
Vienna, Austria
October 19, 2010

This morning my delegation commented on existing programs of the OSCE. This afternoon, I wish to make comments on looking ahead.

A renewed OSCE focus on Transnational Threats, is not just about strengthening our existing work and ensuring that it is more integrated within the political-military dimension and with the other two dimensions. We must develop approaches that anticipate tomorrow's challenges.

The cyber threat posed by criminals and terrorists presents an emerging challenge to our collective security architecture. The OSCE has more work to do in order to better understand the threats emanating from cyberspace. This rapidly evolving area demands a multifaceted response at the international, national, and regional, levels.

The United States takes this issue very seriously and has worked extensively with international partners to develop a common vocabulary across the globe for identifying, responding to and pursuing cyber intrusions. We have worked in a number of global and regional forums. We believe that the OSCE has an important role to play in augmenting work done in this area at the United Nations by the Group of Governmental Experts. In particular, the OSCE should actively work to develop a dialogue among participating States on establishing norms of state behavior in cyberspace. We were pleased to submit a Food for Thought paper on cyber security in the Corfu Process. Continuing to the concept of our colleague from the Russian Federation, however, it is not an issue of control of the Internet. Quite the contrary. As Secretary of State Clinton said in an important policy speech in February on the Internet and the challenges of the digital age, we must ensure freedom of access to the Internet.

One of the most dangerous transnational threats we face is the possibility that the knowledge, technologies, and ingredients for developing or obtaining WMD, particularly nuclear weapons, fall into the wrong hands. UNSCR 1540, augmented by UNSCR 1810, is an extremely important tool for ensuring broad based and comprehensive cooperation to guard against such a possibility. Implementation of 1540 is a classic OSCE "crossover" issue, encompassing multiple elements of the OSCE's security portfolio, including elements such as border security.

Although we will have a separate discussion on Afghanistan in the context of this Review Conference, it still figures prominently in any discussion of transnational threats because many of the shifting and evolving threats that affect the OSCE region are also present in Afghanistan,

sometimes to an even greater degree. Meeting the challenges of promoting good governance, stemming the flow of narcotics across the Afghan border, facilitating licit trade between Afghanistan and its neighbors in Central Asia, and empowering civil society in Afghanistan while building the government's capacity to provide services to the Afghan people would have significant benefits for the stability of the OSCE region as a whole.

In addition, as we look forward to enhanced OSCE efforts to address transnational and related security threats, the USG would like to stress the need for the OSCE to further develop an effective project evaluation regime that includes quantifiable performance indicators and measurable results (i.e., output and impact metrics) to the maximum extent possible. A strengthened programmatic assessment process would enhance transparency, feedback and effectiveness, promote the efficient allocation of resources, allow us to adapt our collective strategies to address security threats, and should be a central feature of the OSCE's post-Summit institutional development.

In conclusion on looking ahead:

When we look beyond the Astana Summit and consider the priorities and structure of the OSCE over the next decade, there is little doubt that combating all forms of transnational threats will play a central role in our work. It is incumbent upon all of us here and at Astana to chart a way forward that builds off the strength of the OSCE while permitting it to remain flexible enough to respond to the changing needs and aspirations of its members.